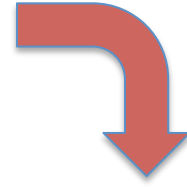


5 Steps to ACTION RESEARCH

Step 1 – Problem Identification

- Why do you want to study this topic?
- Is the problem broad enough to allow for a range of insights and findings?
- Is it narrow enough to be manageable?



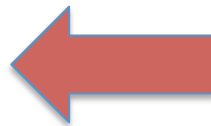
Step 2 – Plan of Action

- Will you develop and implement a new strategy or approach to address your research question(s)?
- What data do you need to learn about your question(s)?



Step 3 – Data Collection

- What, why, when, where, and how will you collect your data?
- How will you ensure that you have multiple perspectives?



Step 4 – Analysis of Data

- What you can learn from the data?
- What patterns, insights, and new understandings can you find?



Step 5 – Plan for Future Action

- What will you do differently in your classroom as a result of this study?
- How will you present what you have learned so that the findings will be useful to you and others?

Problem Identification

To begin the action research process, identify the focus.

Determine the area of teaching and learning that you want to explore. The focus should be on an area over which you have some control and you would like to change or improve.

Describe the situation you want to change.

Why do you want to change it?

What specifically would you like to try?

Identify the questions that need to be answered.

Starting points-

I would really like to improve...

I am perplexed by...

Some people are unhappy about...

I'm curious about...

I want to learn more about...

An idea I would like to try out in my class is...

Something I think would really make a difference is...

Something I would like to do to change is...

Rome now, some areas I am particularly interested in are...

Guidelines for Developing a Question-

One that hasn't already been answered

Higher level questions which get at explanations, reasons, relationships

Not yes-no

Everyday language, avoid jargon

Not too lengthy, concise

Manageable, doable in the context of your work

Follow your passion, meaningful

Keep close to your practice and provides opportunity to stretch

Question leads to other questions

Examples:

Area of Focus: Reading

Question: How will using technology improve student's reading vocabulary?

Area of Focus: Parental Involvement

Question: What strategies will result in more parents attending parent-teacher conferences?